

Lamivudine/Zidovudine

la-MI-vyoo-deen, zye-DOE-vyoo-deen

Brand Name: Combivir

Drug Class: Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

Lamivudine/zidovudine, also known as Combivir, is a combination of the two anti-HIV medicines, lamivudine (Epivir) and zidovudine (Retrovir). Both medicines belong to the class of antiretroviral drugs called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). NRTIs block reverse transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.



HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Lamivudine/zidovudine was approved by the FDA on September 27, 1997, for use in combination with other anti-HIV drugs for the treatment of HIV infection in adults and in children more than 12 years old. This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Dosage Form/Administration

Lamivudine/zidovudine comes in tablet form. Lamivudine/zidovudine is taken by mouth and may be taken with or without food. This medicine was developed because lamivudine and zidovudine are often prescribed together to treat HIV infection. Combining the medicines decreases the number of pills that must be taken each day.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of lamivudine/zidovudine for adults and adolescents at least 12 years of age is one tablet (150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice a day.

Some patients may require a different dose of lamivudine or zidovudine. These patients should not take Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine).

Contraindications

Warnings and side effects of lamivudine/zidovudine may be similar to those for each of the medicines separately. (See individual summaries for lamivudine and zidovudine for more information.) Children younger than 12 years old should not take lamivudine/zidovudine. Individuals who have blood disease, kidney or liver disease, or an inflamed pancreas should tell a doctor before using this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, this medicine can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include burning, tingling, or pain in the hands, arms, feet, or legs; chills; ear, nose, or throat problems; fever; muscle aches; nausea; pale skin; severe stomach pain; skin rash; unusual tiredness or weakness; vomiting; or yellow eyes or skin. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include cough; diarrhea; dizziness; headache; loss of appetite; mild stomach cramps or pain; or trouble sleeping. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications, prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications, also being taken.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Lamivudine/Zidovudine, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Lamivudine/Zidovudine AND HIV Infections.

Lamivudine/Zidovudine



Manufacturer Information

Lamivudine/Zidovudine
GlaxoSmithKline
5 Moore Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(888) 825-5249

Combivir
GlaxoSmithKline
5 Moore Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(888) 825-5249

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET